



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate E - Aviation and international transport affairs  
**E2 – Single European Sky**

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Mr Joe SULTANA  
Director Network Manager  
EUROCONTROL

Rue de la Fusée 96  
B-1130 Brussels

**Subject: Role of the Network Manager in the implementation of  
Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1079/2012 on voice channel  
spacing (VCS).**

Dear Mr Sultana,

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1079/2012, as amended Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 657/2013 of 10 July 2013, lays down requirements for the coordinated introduction of air-ground voice communications based on 8.33 kHz channel spacing.

To assess its implementation, identify and understand existing issues and discuss its possible evolution, the Commission organised on 27 January 2015 a stakeholder workshop gathering representatives from the major stakeholders, including the Network Manager. The workshop notably concluded that *"Improved awareness raising, coordinated monitoring and steering of the implementation, including the handling and coordination of exemptions (for civil and state aircraft) should be considered by the Commission and possibly allocated to the Network Manager RFF function"*. These conclusions were also presented at the SSC56 meeting of 18/19 March 2015.

Further to our recent discussions on this topic and with a view to designate a body to coordinate the introduction of 8.33 kHz channel spacing below FL 195 in order to reduce the risk of significant delays which would jeopardise the success of the RFF, the Commission would like the Network Manager to take an active and central role in the "coordination of the implementation of 8.33 kHz voice channel spacing capability below FL195" by

- monitoring and steering the implementation of 8.33 kHz VCS channels on both ground and air;
- providing a central coordination and information function on the granted exemptions and derogations under the specific provisions of the Regulation;
- building and providing awareness raising and implementation support capabilities, notably as regards the VCS IR implementation status;

As identified in the annex, providing a more detailed list of identified specific tasks, most of those tasks are already covered by the NM-IR today.

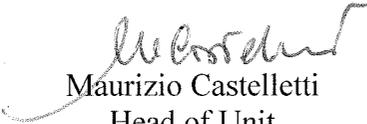
The Commission is therefore inviting the Network Manager to consider taking the necessary steps, including the planning of needed resources, to ensure that the identified tasks for a successful implementation of 8.33kHz below FL195 are performed in an effective manner and by the target dates, as set out in the VCS implementing rule.

In the mean time, and with the understanding that the described tasks should be agreed by the NMB, the Commission will inform the Single Sky Committee members of the above proposed tasks and actions for the Network Manager and collect their initial comments, if any.

I believe that the contribution of the Network Manager will be crucial for the effective implementation of Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1079/2012.

I look forward to a positive reply by the Network Manager to this Commission's request and to the NM's further contribution to the implementation of the Single European Sky.

Yours sincerely,



Maurizio Castelletti  
Head of Unit

Cc: S. Hocquard (NMB chairman)

Encls: Detailed list of Tasks in support of the implementation of VCS Regulation